

November 12, 2008

TO: Members of the Transportation Policy Committee

FROM: Mayor Steve Berman, Gilbert, Chair

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF PEER REGIONS TRANSIT WORKSHOP AND MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE AND TRANSMITTAL OF TENTATIVE AGENDA

Peer Regions Transit Workshop - 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, November 19, 2008
MAG Office, Suite 200 - Saguaro Room
302 N. First Avenue, Phoenix

A Peer Regions Transit Workshop of the Transportation Policy Committee, Valley Metro Rail (METRO) Board and the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) Board will be held at the time and place noted above.

Meeting - 3:30 p.m. or later (following the conclusion of the Peer Regions Transit Workshop)
Wednesday, November 19, 2008
MAG Office, Suite 200 - Saguaro Room
302 N. First Avenue, Phoenix

A meeting of the Transportation Policy Committee is scheduled for the time and place noted above. Members of the Transportation Policy Committee may attend the meeting either in person, by videoconference, or by telephone conference call. As was discussed at the first meeting of the Committee, proxies would not be allowed. Members who are not able to attend the meeting are encouraged to submit their comments in writing, so that their view would always be a part of the process.

For those attending in person, please park in the garage under the building. Bring your ticket to the meeting, parking will be validated. For those using transit, the Regional Public Transportation Authority will provide transit tickets for your trip. For those using bicycles, please lock your bicycle in the bike rack in the garage.

Pursuant to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), MAG does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to or participation in its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting Valerie Day at the MAG office. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.

Refreshments and a light snack will be provided at the Transportation Policy Committee meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, or Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, at (602) 254-6300.

c: MAG Regional Council
MAG Management Committee

**PEER REGIONS TRANSIT WORKSHOP
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
VALLEY METRO RAIL (METRO) BOARD
REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (RPTA) BOARD
TENTATIVE AGENDA
November 19, 2008 - 2:00 p.m.**

ACTION REQUESTED

I. Peer Regions Transit Workshop

The Peer Regions Transit Workshop provides an opportunity to members of the Transportation Policy Committee, Valley Metro Rail (METRO) Board and the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) Board to learn about public transit systems in other regions directly from the industry professionals who plan and operate them. In addition, peer regions representatives from Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, Salt Lake City, San Diego and Seattle will share their observations on transit in the MAG region. Please refer to the enclosed material.

I. Information and discussion.

**TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE
TENTATIVE AGENDA**

November 19, 2008

3:30 p.m. or later

(following the conclusion of the Peer Regions Transit Workshop)

COMMITTEE ACTION REQUESTED

I. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Call to the Audience

An opportunity will be provided to members of the public to address the Transportation Policy Committee on items not scheduled on the agenda that fall under the jurisdiction of MAG, or on items on the agenda for discussion but not for action. Citizens will be requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments. A total of 15 minutes will be provided for the Call

3. Information.

to the Audience agenda item, unless the Transportation Policy Committee requests an exception to this limit. Please note that those wishing to comment on agenda items posted for action will be provided the opportunity at the time the item is heard.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

Prior to action on the consent agenda, members of the audience will be provided an opportunity to comment on consent items that are being presented for action. Following the comment period, Committee members may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda. Consent items are marked with an asterisk (*).

4. Recommend approval of the Consent Agenda.

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONSENT*

*4A. Approval of the October 15, 2008, Meeting Minutes

4A. Review and approval of the October 15, 2008, meeting minutes.

*4B. Arterial Life Cycle Program Status Report

4B. Information.

A status report on the Arterial Life Cycle Program (ALCP) is provided for the period between April 2008 and September 2008 and includes an update on Project work, the remaining FY 2009 schedule, and ALCP revenues and finances. Please refer to the enclosed material.

*4C. Requested Change to Statewide Transportation Acceleration Needs (STAN) Projects

4C. Recommend approval of the request to decrease STAN funding by \$12.2 million for the L101 from Tatum Boulevard to Princess Drive project and increase the funding by \$12.2 million for the L303 project that includes crossings at Bell Road, Cactus Road, and Waddell Road.

In December 2006, the MAG Regional Council approved the set of projects to be funded from the Statewide Transportation Acceleration Needs (STAN) Account. One of the STAN projects that is under construction is the HOV lane on L101 from Tatum Boulevard to Princess Drive. The bid for this project was about \$12.2 million less than the \$32.5 million of STAN funds allocated to this project. Another STAN project, which is on L303, involved the construction of crossings at Bell Road, Cactus Road and Waddell Road for a total of \$22 million. Final design for this project is underway and the construction costs have been revised to \$34.1 million. In addition, the right of way acquisition to complete this project is

estimated at \$26.2 million. A shift of the project savings from the L101 HOV project to the L303 project is being requested. There is no fiscal impact on the MAG Freeway Program. This item is on the November 12, 2008, MAG Management Committee agenda. An update will be provided on action taken by the Committee. Please refer to the enclosed material.

ITEMS PROPOSED TO BE HEARD

5. Transportation Planning Update

At the October 15, 2008 Transportation Policy Committee meeting, the financial outlook for the Regional Freeway Program was discussed. Staff presented strategies for future discussion by the TPC to bring the 20-year costs and revenues in balance for the program. It is anticipated that the strategies will be further discussed at the meeting along with an updated financial report for the freeway program that incorporates the revised revenue projections.

6. Commuter Rail Update

The Regional Transportation Plan that was presented to the voters in Proposition 400 included \$5 million to develop commuter rail options and implementation strategies. In January 2006, the Regional Council approved forming a commuter rail stakeholders group to assist in preparing a draft scope of work for a commuter rail study. In October 2006, the Regional Council approved selecting URS Corporation to develop a MAG Commuter Rail Strategic Plan. In April 2008, the Regional Council accepted the MAG Commuter Rail Strategic Plan and recommended that MAG proceed with the first four implementation steps: 1) Ongoing Coordination; 2) Union Pacific Passenger Rail Coordination; 3) Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Coordination; and 4) Regional Transit Planning. In July 2008, the Regional Council Executive Committee approved the selection of URS Corporation to develop the Grand Avenue Commuter Rail Corridor Development Plan for an amount not to exceed \$600,000. At the time, several members advocated that the Union Pacific

5. Information and discussion.

6. Information and discussion.

Corridor also be studied. This corridor was not included due to the Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT) current work with Union Pacific on the corridor leading from Tucson to the Phoenix metropolitan area and Union Pacific's desire to only work with ADOT on the corridor. Union Pacific's position has recently changed and ADOT has indicated that a team arrangement with MAG and ADOT on the Union Pacific Corridor within the MAG region would be workable. It is anticipated that a scope of work will be discussed in the Commuter Rail Stakeholders group for a Union Pacific Development Plan within the MAG region. The cost of the Union Pacific Development Plan will be determined once the scope is identified. Due to the greater track length than the Grand Avenue Commuter Rail Corridor Development Plan, the cost is likely to exceed the \$600,000 amount that was approved for the Grand Avenue Corridor. Additional transit studies will require another staff member at MAG. Currently MAG has a 1/4 staff position vacancy that could be used as part of a full time position.

Another component of the Union Pacific corridor is a grant received by ADOT to develop an environmental impact statement for the corridor between Tucson and Phoenix. This grant requires a 50/50 match (\$1 million). A report on these commuter rail activities will be provided.

7. Legislative Update

Recently Congress has been considering a stimulus package to boost the national economy. To provide information for this effort, staff has provided funding amounts in transportation and other categories that may be possible to implement in a short period of time. Staff will provide an update on these Congressional efforts.

8. Input on Business Representatives on the Transportation Policy Committee

With the passage of Proposition 400 on November 2, 2004, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives were authorized to appoint six business members

7. Information and discussion.

8. Information, discussion and input.

to the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC). State law also provides that the Chairman of the Regional Planning Agency may submit names to the President and Speaker for consideration. On December 31, 2008, the terms of two of the TPC business members will expire. On October 28, 2008, a memorandum was sent to Regional Council members requesting names for the business representatives. One of the two business members must represent construction interests. This is defined in state law as "a company whose primary function consists of building freeways, highways or major arterial streets." The other business member would represent regionwide business. The law defines regionwide business as "a company that provides goods or services throughout the county." State law provides that members serve six-year terms of office. Input from TPC members is requested. It is anticipated that the Regional Council may make a recommendation on the business members at its December 3, 2008, meeting. Please refer to the enclosed material.